

this Congress, which is why I bring this message to the floor of the House of Representatives, so that America can take another step to begin to understand the damage down there.

I will tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that I think we should do everything we can to rescue people, to help them recover, to place them, to make this next phase of their lives more comfortable, easier, give some sense of certainty and some sense of confidence. But, at the same time, those resources that go to that we cannot hold back, but we need a plan. We need an overall plan on, first of all, the question was asked whether we are going to rebuild New Orleans. And I want to hear from the people in New Orleans, the people in Louisiana and, of course, the people in this country. But as I look at it, I see a city that has a unique character and it has a spirit, and it sits there today awfully quiet with nothing going on, high-rise buildings, the Superdome, the core of downtown New Orleans simply standing there dormant, waiting for occupants, waiting for the water to go down and the services to go on and people to come in and occupy.

If we rebuild New Orleans to the size and scope that it was and the population that has been driven from there does not come back to New Orleans, then we will have some services that are overbuilt for the numbers of people that it will be servicing. If we rebuild New Orleans and start rebuilding homes that were destroyed, bulldoze neighborhoods where every house was destroyed and go back in and start building homes again and the disaster hits again, that is good money after bad.

So, Mr. Speaker, I propose that we put together a plan, a plan to save the city, a plan that would, I will say, construct the outlet of Lake Pontchartrain in such a way that a Category 5 hurricane cannot drive that water up into Lake Pontchartrain. Construct floodgates at the inlets of the canals, such as the 17th Street Canal, so that if something fails on the outlet, a hurricane levee protection of Lake Pontchartrain so that Lake Pontchartrain did fill it with water, that the flood gates will protect it so that New Orleans cannot be flooded again.

And I propose, Mr. Speaker, that we go in to every one of those 30 or 40 or more pump stations that are there and raise them up to an elevation high enough that no matter how severe the storm, that it cannot knock out the pumps and we would have a third way to protect the city.

This is not cheap, but New Orleans is a shipping city; New Orleans is a city with a tremendously pivotal economic location. It will be a city; with or without Federal help, it will be constructed as a city again, but we need to put the mitigation in place, the fail-safe system in place so there are actually three places to protect the city. The hurricane wall and levee for the outlet of Lake Pontchartrain, the floodgates

along the top of Lake Pontchartrain to keep the water out of the city, and then disaster-proof the lift stations, the pump stations that are all over that city so that they do not shut down, so that we can protect the city.

And then, if perhaps 25 percent of the people do not come back to New Orleans, if they decide that they are going to make their future where they find themselves relocated, then those low grounds that I showed on the previous chart, that dark brown in particular, that area should be put to some other use other than houses so that we are not pulling people out of the water again. Perhaps it becomes a park. We will wait for some architect to come up with a good idea for that.

But I am for helping people, and I am for a long-term plan to do the right thing. I do not think we need to be in a desperate hurry to rebuild New Orleans in the shortest time possible. I think this is a long-term event, and some of this damage that took place was to work that was done more than 100 years ago. We can put this work together in a fashion that is sequential to protect the city of New Orleans and build for the future, and it can be a more vibrant city than it has ever been before. It can still have its unique culture, and it can possibly have a culture that changes, but a unique culture. It can be economically viable and it can bring to this Nation the component of glory that it has given to us in the past and be a great city to visit in and live in, but we need to have an intelligent plan.

It is Congress's job to do that, Mr. Speaker. It is our job to initiate appropriations, and it is our job to safeguard those appropriations, and it is our job to listen to the people of America and put a plan in place, Mr. Speaker. That is my message to the American people.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this House of Representatives this evening, and I look forward to many discussions about how we are going to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of district business.

Mrs. MALONEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week.

Mr. McNULTY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. WALSH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and September 14 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. MCHUGH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. HERSETH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and September 14, 15, and 16.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, September 20.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, September 14.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, September 14 and 15.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, September 15.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 804. An act to exclude from consideration as income certain payments under the national flood insurance program.

H.R. 3669. An act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 252. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land in Washoe County, Nevada, to the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada.

S. 264. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize certain projects in the State of Hawaii.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reports that on September 8, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 3650. Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Act of 2005.

H.R. 3673. Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.